

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Cynthia Schultz, Bill Brown, Andy Davis, Ted Mendoza, Maggie Sullivan, Melissa Clark, Dave Rollo

Regrets: Jim Sherman, Toby Strout, Matt Laherty, Paul Schneller, George Huntington

Staff Present: Jeff Holabaugh

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. February minutes approved with general consent.

Public Comment

Cynthia welcomed members of the public.

Announcements

Melissa discussed service learning opportunities through her sustainability class. Dave congratulated Maggie on her recognition as an Emerging Community Leader, as recognized by the Bloomington Commission on The Status of Women. "Transition Bloomington" is part of a global transition network, themed in rebuilding community self-reliance in the face of peak-oil and global climate change and has announced the "Great Unleashing" on April 24th at City Hall. Dave attended a community orchard meeting, put together by Amy Countryman. The City will sponsor a community orchard, with land for approximately 40 trees. Over 120 people attended the meeting and many called for more than one orchard. Council will look to areas of City property where more orchards could be placed. University has donated approximately \$250,000 for pedestrian-friendly re-engineering of intersection at the corner of Henderson and Atwater and there is also an effort to include a bike-lane. Bill informed commission that e-waste days are scheduled for April 8-10th at the stadium. Info can be found on IU Office of Sustainability website. All the e-waste is recycled or repurposed (832,000 pounds of e-waste recycled last year).

Sustainability Coordinator Hiring Update

Two finalists have been identified out of 72 applicants. The City is working to coordinate final interview schedules with the candidates.

May 11th Planning Session Discussion

Matt has identified Michelle Cole from Visage, a local IT firm that is willing to facilitate the meeting for free. The plan is to gather at 3, begin the meeting at 3:30 and adjourn by 8. Maggie and Ted recommend having everyone come in with a list of goals/priorities, what

everyone is working towards in order to help identify the interests of each commission member and how to channel that into goals. Dave would like to see BCOS have some advocacy toward legislation at the local level and feels the unified development ordinance is an area that BCOS could get involved. Dave feels that our built environment is an area that contributes greatly to our “footprint” and would like a representative of BCOS to be at planning meetings in order to contribute a “sustainable” perspective and feels the Sustainability Coordinator may have an opportunity to act on behalf of BCOS at Planning Commission meetings. Andy feels there may be a disconnect between the incentives offered to developers and the environmental benefits (i.e., a good recycling program may not be enough to off-set the costs of 100 more units).

Committee Reports

STAR committee recommends to the Commission that they do not produce a full STAR this year due to new Sustainability Coordinator, resource constraints, etc and recommends a bi-annual full reporting. STAR asks for feedback from the Commission. Commission shows no objection. Cynthia congratulates the Green Networks newsletter on their first publication. Transportation committee hopes to tackle smaller policy issues will allow the committee to focus efforts and accomplish smaller policy goals. Transportation committee is interested in a form of “bike-share” program. IUSA is also working on developing a similar program. Andy is personally interested in working with crosswalk issues in the City. Dave would like to work towards a unified County, City, University plan for transportation. Dave also feels that covered bike racks and bus shelters are issues that the Transportation committee could work on. Green Building series has events scheduled during Earth Week April 17th-April 25th and is firming up the schedule. Green Building will partner with other groups for tree and native plant giveaways, etc. Panel discussion on weatherization may be broadcast on local television.

Water Report Presentation

Matt has determined that water utility could save approximately \$25,000 (10% energy savings) by focusing on energy management. The marketing/communication project is a great opportunity to focus the public on water conservation. It is recommended to expand plant to meet existing capacity demand (see presentation slides for specifics). The plant is currently operating at full capacity and there is no buffer in the system. Conservation and expansion are recommended. 95% of pump costs over its lifetime comes from electricity and as a result, it may be more cost-efficient to purchase an efficient pump that costs 4-5 times the amount of a less-efficient pump.

Dave discussed that to cover current expenses and debt payments, a 22% rate increase is necessary; a 35% rate increase for current expenses and a redundant line; a 47% rate increase (would only effect drinking water) for redundant line, current expenses, and expansion to 30 MGD. Dave feels council would like to advocate tiered pricing. Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission would not permit tiered pricing. An option is to leave IURC. 47% rate increase would be within range of other similar size communities. Dave is trending towards the feeling that we need expansion. Not all of council agrees and others on utility service board do not agree. Many feel that conservation alone will not be enough. Bloomington uses less water/capita than many other areas of the country. Dave would like people to consider energy

security recommendations. If electric grid goes down, we have no smart grid capacity to redirect power to water plant.

Matt would like to ask the commission if they feel comfortable with him advocating for a plant expansion, being a member of BCOS but not representing BCOS officially. Maggie feels that a position should not be publicly advocated on behalf of BCOS. Andy feels that Matt is free to represent his personal position on the subject but not represent BCOS.

Growth in water demand is coming from wholesalers. Commission would like to invite representatives of Utility Board to attend a meeting. Andy suggested having an off-schedule meeting to discuss issues such as plant expansion in-depth where presenters could participate. Dave and Cynthia feel it is an idea worth pursuing. Commission is open to this as well.

Green Drinks Presentation

Cynthia stated that the commission has been invited to present at Green Drinks (May is the first date open, 3rd Wed. of the month). Cynthia asked commission if it is appropriate for BCOS to present and if so, what the commission would like the presentation include. Cynthia suggested water topic and perhaps sharing podium with new Sustainability Coordinator. Maggie feels it is a great place for BCOS to present but is only concerned about the timing so that the water report is finalized and Sustainability Coordinator can participate.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.